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VIETNAM COURIER

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A SPLENDID SUCCESS

(*NHAN DAN Editorial of Jan. 21, 1968*)

1967 was a year of ever biggest successes in every field for the heroic South Viet Nam armymen and people, a year of ever heaviest setbacks in every field for the American aggressors.

Significantly enough, it marked a change of utmost importance: the U.S. invaders were obviously losing and rushing headlong towards total defeat, wile our armymen and people throughout the country were clearly winning and dashing forward in a bid for complete victory.

A recent communique of the South Viet Nam P.L.A.F. Command has reviewed the splendid achievements of the South Viet Nam armymen and people in the military field. According to still incomplete figures, last year, our Southern fighters and compatriots put out of action nearly 365,000 enemy troops (including over 170,000 Americans and satellites); knocked out 53 infantry, artillery and engineer battalions, 20 armoured squadrons, 400 companies and troops, 680 platoons; downed or destroyed 3,200 aircraft; blast to pieces 8,500 military vehicles (including more than 4,000 armoured cars), 730 artillery pieces, over 200 naval craft, big and small, 38 engines and 101 carriages; and seized tens of thousands of fire-arms. These were unprecedented achievements of the South Viet Nam armymen and people. They constituted a great advance over 1966: total enemy casualties increase by more than one third; those suffered by the Americans and their satellites by nearly one half; those of battalions and equivalent units by over one half; enemy losses in aircraft increased by more than one half; those in armoured cars by three and a half times and in naval craft, big and small, by over two times.

These brilliant exploits were the result of a year of grim confrontation between fast growing fighters and compatriots on the one hand, and the U.S. aggressors and their stooges on the other in their attempt to reverse the tide in their favour. Throughout 1967 everywhere in South Viet Nam victory followed upon victory right since

(*Continued page 7*)

IN 1967, THE P.L.A.F. PUT OUT OF ACTION OR DESTROYED:

365,000 Enemy Soldiers Including **170,000** G.I.s and Foreign Mercenaries.

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53 Battalions, 20 Squadrons of Armoured Vehicles.

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3,200 Planes and Helicopters.

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8,500 Military Vehicles (Including 4,000 Armoured Cars), 730 Heavy Guns, 200 War Vessels and Craft, 58 Locomotives and 101 Carriages.

(*COMMUNIQUE OF THE P.L.A.F. COMMAND*)

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The P.L.A.F. in the Western High Plateaux close in upon the enemy

MAR 20 1968

MESSAGE OF DECEIT AND BELLICOSITY

IN THE ELECTION YEAR

FOR the Americans, each annual message of their president on the State of the Union is something like an appeal to the nation. The one made by L.B.J. at the beginning of 1968 must have had a greater importance, because it was the last sent in the course of a mandate which will expire at the end of this year, and because it was delivered in the context of an unusual political situation within and without the U.S.

In **Viet Nam**, the war of destruction against the North will soon enter its fourth year without being able to shake in the least measure the morale of the Vietnamese people despite some 460,000 tons of bombs and rockets released, or a much higher quantity than in the last years of the Korean war, nor to extricate the Yankees from their quagmire in the South. The three phoney elections have failed, as a matter of fact, to shore up the Saigon puppet regime rotten to the core.

In the world, man's conscience is demanding with increasing firmness the cessation of U.S. aggression in Viet Nam, the most inhumane war at present. Since December 20, 1967 when Mr. Nguyen Duy Trinh, D.R.V.N. Foreign Minister reaffirmed unequivocally his government's position regarding the Viet Nam problem, public opinion in the world, including the U.S., has been urging with greater force and insistence the unconditional halt of the bombings and all other acts of war against North Viet Nam.

In the **United States**, the "quiet American" has publicly shown that he is fed up with the Viet Nam war with its deep internal repercussions. Despite its huge economic potential, the U.S. realizes that its resources are not unimpaired and that it has to choose in the last analysis between "butter" and "gun." Though it claims to be a great western democracy, it is seriously plagued by such problems as racial discrimination, suppression of freedom of opinion. Its domestic problems are closely linked with the war in Viet Nam or rather this war has had a strong impact on all aspects of life in the U.S.

Of course, the American and world's peoples who love peace, expected with legitimate concern the Jan. 17 message, hoping to learn how the U.S. president would deal with the Viet Nam issue. But this number one problem made up only one-eleventh — even less — of his lengthy speech. What was worse was the way that problem was tackled.

ANOTHER SAN ANTONIO FORMULA

AS could be expected, Mr. Johnson began by solemnly reaffirming "Our goal is peace, — and peace at the earliest possible moment."

Reiterated many times, this sentence has lost the value of a ritual gesture.

In the same vein, he expressed the wish that "we would consult... with the other side to see if a complete cessation of hostilities could be made the first order of business."

Here resorting to an old tactics, he lumped the aggressor and the victim of aggression in an attempt to equate their responsibilities. Useless and cynical confusion; it is the U.S. imperialists who are now waging a war of aggression against Viet Nam; they are alone to bear the entire responsibility for it.

With regard to the settlement of the Viet Nam problem, Johnson was literally and deliberately lost in the labyrinth of his logic. On the one hand, he replied evasively to Mr. Nguyen Duy Trinh's Dec. 29 statement, saying, "We are exploring the meaning of Hanoi's recent statement."

On the other, he wanted to openly force his views, "Any talks should follow the San Antonio formula" stated last September which said: the bombing would stop if talks would take place promptly and with reasonable hopes they would be productive." In order to "martially" stress his thought, Johnson underscored, "This nation simply cannot accept anything less without jeopardizing the lives of our men and our allies."

In nice words, he wanted to make himself a "peace-fighter" but did not succeed.

THE ROAD TO WAR

AS Mr. Johnson said, it remains in the framework of the San Antonio formula, the cessation of bombings of North Viet Nam with the assurance that the talks would take place promptly and be productive and that the other side would not take advantage of this cessation to make a military gain.

However, the San Antonio formula rests wholly on the principle of reciprocity between the aggressor and the victim of aggression, a juridically indefensible and morally condemned principle; it is always the same "conditional cessation" of bombing. As to the question "will the talks take place promptly and will they be productive?" they are not the proof of a real good will but the dilatory schemes of the American leaders. Without accepting talks how can the latter appraise their efficacy?

Besides, in the interview granted to *AFP* on Jan. 16, 1968, Mr. Mai Van Bo, general delegate of the D.R.V.N. government in France, gave enlightening clarifications.

"For the American imperialists, there is neither human ethics nor international law; there is but the fist law. The aggressor is allowed to put conditions to the victim of aggression: the San Antonio formula is nothing short of the price of aggression proposed on the victim.

Many a time L.B.J. declared he was ready to go more than half the way. All testifies that he has gone that way, not toward peace but toward war extension. His January 17 message was but a naked lie and sheer sabre rattling.

Already in the U.S. as in the world, men of conscience and honest political circles have been disappointed and hoodwinked by Johnson's words. Already protests have risen everywhere against Johnson's mulishness to carry on the war in Viet Nam, an insolent challenge to public opinion.

No doubt, the new escalation can never bend the Vietnamese people's resolve to fight until final victory for independence and freedom. On the contrary, it only aggravates the politico-military predicament of the U.S. in Viet Nam; the Vietnamese people will deal it more staggering blows as at present.

"It is the soul that wins battles and will always win them, as it has won them at all times in the world." This remark by Barbey d'Aurevilly remains particularly sound in our era of invincible people's war. Without admitting it, the American generals have got some notion of it in Viet Nam.

January 20, 1968

QUANG LOI

WE STRONGLY CONDEMN U.S. AGGRESSORS AND HENCHMEN'S BOMBARDMENT OF CAMBODIAN AND CHINESE TERRITORIES

ON Jan. 18, 1968, the U.S. and Saigon puppet troops supported by aircraft, violated Cambodia's territory and attacked the Piem Mon Tioc post in Preyving province, killing three Khmers and wounding another.

Storming a frontier-defending post, killing people of an independent and sovereign country is obviously a deliberate aggressive act. This is also a grave and base provocation for it occurred only one week after Bundy, Johnson's representative, had "undertaken" that the U.S. would respect the sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of Cambodia and on the very day when the Australian ambassador in Cambodia who, acting on behalf of the U.S. Government, "assured" the Cambodian Government that the U.S. troops had no intention to violate Cambodia's territory.

The Vietnamese people indignantly condemn the U.S. imperialists and their Saigon flunkeys' above-cited crime of aggression. The attack on Piem Mon Tioc exposed once more the U.S. imperialists' dirty double dealing and aggressive design against Cambodia.

Fighting the common enemy, U.S. imperialism, the Vietnamese people resolutely support the just struggle of the brother Khmer people led by Head of State Norodom Sihanouk to safeguard the independence, neutrality, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cambodia within her present boundaries.

ON January 7, 1968, 3 planes of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys in Laos bombed Miao Trai area, Yunnan province (China) causing many casualties among the civilians and great damage to their property.

This new crime of the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen in Laos was most serious in that it was closely associated with the U.S. war escalation in Indo-China. It was not accidental that this bombing took place only three days after the raid on the Chinese cargo-boat *Hongqi* 158 calling at Hongay, when other U.S. air strikes were launched on Hai Phong port and against foreign ships on Lang Son town, near the Chinese border and when the U.S. imperialists were brazenly threatening Cambodia and stepping up their "special war" is Laos.

These crimes committed by the U.S. imperialists and their stooges against Viet Nam, Cambodia, Laos and People's China have aroused a high indignation among the Vietnamese people and strongly been condemned by world opinion. The Vietnamese people staunchly support the position of the Chinese government as put forth in its Jan. 12, 1968 statement: "The Chinese government and people sternly warn the U.S. imperialists and the Lao right wing that they are responsible for all serious consequences arising from their provocations against the Chinese people."

THEY SHOW THE WHITE FEATHER!

IT is common knowledge that the play cease-fire ordered by the South Viet Nam N.F.L. on the occasion of the Lunar Year, Viet Nam's traditional festival, the U.S. and the Saigon puppet administration had previously announced they would observe the truce for 48 hours only. Following a series of their violations of the cease-fire at Christmas and New Year's Day, according to *AP* on January 21, the U.S., its satellites and its puppets recently reached an agreement by which the cease-fire period was reduced to 36 hours on the occasion of the most significant traditional festival of the Vietnamese people. They showed utter disregard for public condemnation and the struggle waged by the people in areas temporarily under their control and by members of the puppet army who demand that the N.F.L. cease-fire order be strictly observed.

This ignominious move was taken at a time when President Johnson was prattling lengthily about the U.S. goodwill for peace, and when U.S. lackeys were flexing their muscles under the cloak of a "popularly elected, constitutional government" in the name of the so-called "interests of the people." Showing the white feather in face of a legitimate proposal by the N.F.L., Washington and Saigon only betray their weakness and their aggressive and traitorous nature.

NORTH Vietnam NEWS IN BRIEF

ACCORDING to initial statistics of the Department of Aquatic Products, the fish rearing area in 1967 exceeded the plan by 6 per cent. In the provinces of the former Fourth Zone, the hardest hit by U.S. air and naval bombing, the increase was 33.2 per cent (twice for fish rearing ricefields).

AT the beginning of the Three-Year Plan for Cultural Development of Minority Areas, the Education Department has published many kinds of text-books in the Vietnamese language and Tay and Nung (scripts of minority people), totalling nearly one million copies to be used

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THE U.S. GUILTY OF CRIMES OF GENOCIDE IN ITS VIET NAM WAR OF AGGRESSION

Large excerpts from the recapitulating report by Mr. LELIO BASSO

First of all, from the point of view of international law the lawyer reaffirmed the legitimate character of the Bertrand Russell International War Crimes Tribunal and its role in the development of international law, and also the legitimate character of international organizations trying the crimes of U.S. imperialism in its war of aggression in Viet Nam when this war gives rise to new problems. In various parts of his report, when analyzing the specific crimes, the lawyer quoted, and elaborated on, the Hague Conventions of July 28, 1899, and October 18, 1907, the Resolutions of the League of Nations, the Geneva Conventions and many other international law documents. In making extracts from this report we shall not mention the passages dealing with the above-mentioned international conventions but concentrate on forceful facts and evidence.

Heads and subheads are ours.—Ed.

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THE UNITED STATES USES ARMS, MEANS AND SUBSTANCES BANNED BY THE LAWS OF WAR

IT suffices to recall that the existence of general rules prohibiting the bombardments of hospitals, schools, places of worship, civilian populations, etc... has been accepted by the collective conscience of the peoples.

Moreover, the illegality of all these bombardments as well as all the successive acts which we should have to speak of, has been confirmed once again by the attitude of American authorities which succeed in denying the very evidence of facts established by all the witnesses and by the American correspondents themselves, and this because they know very well that it is a case of criminal acts.

Remember in this connection President Johnson's famous words that the Americans in Viet Nam aim at "concrete and steel" only. Likewise, remember with regard to weapons, that the use of steel-pellet bombs was admitted by the U.S. Government only after our Stockholm session which had provided ample proofs of it, and that similarly the use of gases was first denied and then admitted only as what is termed non-lethal gases, that the torture was attributed to the authorities of the puppet administration, that the concentration camps were called "New Life hamlets," etc... If the truth is a far cry from what the American authorities have said, as we have proved it by our work, it seems to me that in this constant lie, there is an implicit admission of guilt.

Concerning the banned weapons, Mr. Jouffa has reminded you that these bans dated back at least a century, from the Declaration of St. Petersbourg of 1868, and were then taken up again in general terms by the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, while concerning asphyxiating, toxic and similar gases, there exist the Convention of Washington of January 6, 1922 and the Geneva Protocol of June 17, 1925. The fact that for two different reasons these Acts could not be enforced does not effectively preclude the fact that they limit themselves to taking up again the pre-existing and perfectly valid general rules, so much so that, except fascist Italy, no other country—not even Nazi Germany nor Japan—resorted any more, after the first war to the use of gases in war. Moreover, the formula employed in the Washington and Geneva treaties is a formula that records the pre-existence of rules. "The use in war of asphyxiating, toxic and other gases and all similar liquids, materials or devices justly condemned by the universal opinion of the civilised world, and the ban of this use being formulated in the treaties to which the greatest number of civilised powers are parties, the signatories, with a view to making this ban universally recognised as being incorporated in the law of nations, which is also imperative for the conscience and the practice of the nations." etc... This is found again in Article 5 of the Washington Convention which repeats almost literally the preamble of the Geneva Protocol: Thus it involves rules that exist outside legislative texts.

Furthermore, concerning the U.S. more specially, may I remind you that President Roosevelt declared on June 9, 1943 that the use of "toxic or noxious gases or all other inhuman methods of war... has been outlawed by the general opinion of the civilised peoples" and that "our country has renounced it," and that "in no case we shall have recourse to such weapons, unless our enemies are the first to use them." Likewise, the U.S. Secretary of State has repelled the charge of using chemical and bacteriological weapons in Korea.

The very good work done by the Scientific Commission of this Tribunal has proved how these rules have been violated by the Americans in Viet Nam and this has found expression in the reports of a very high technical and scientific standard submitted here by Dr. Behar, Professor Kahn and Professor Minkowski, etc... In a recapitulating report, I certainly cannot remind you of the conclusions which your scientific commission has arrived at; namely, that "Toxic gases have been used and are still used by the American troops in Viet Nam" and that "It takes notes of the repeated and massive use of gases of the CN, CS and DM types," and that "formally opposing the official statements of American origin, the Commission estimates having supplied the proof that, in the conditions of use as defined above, the so-called "harassing" gases become lethal gases and thus they are actually combat gases prohibited by international law.

Likewise, as for as defoliation is concerned, the Lederer report concluded that "the use of chemical weapons is likely to provoke biological reactions quite unsuspected in the immediate future" and that these weapons are banned by international law. Finally it is the same with napalm, whose massive and indiscriminate use against the civilian population has been confirmed to you by the scientific commission, by numerous eye-witnesses including the victims of napalm themselves, and also by the doctors who have attended to them.

In addition to all that, the testimony of Donald Duncan has shown that the Americans use an M.16 rifle which is the standard weapon of most Americans and which makes it possible to bypass the law banning the dum-dum bullet.

THE G.I.'S DO NOT OBSERVE ANY NORMS OF HUMANITY WITH REGARD TO P.O.W.'S

THE Americans in Viet Nam violate all rules of humanitarianism towards prisoners of war. In this connection, the testimonies of American soldiers which you have heard are positive and overwhelming.

Tuck said that they had killed the prisoners (mostly the wounded) on orders, except for the officers, and that the prisoners had never died by themselves. They were got rid of by killing.

Duncan confirmed that the instructions had been given to kill the prisoners and he also related a defined episode: "Once we took many prisoners, but they were too many for our team. I then telephoned for instructions. I was amazed by what I heard. I pretended not to understand, and brought them all the same to our base by helicopter. But I was scolded. They ought to have been killed, but such orders were not given by radio."

As to torture, we have had also damning testimonies. Martinson, Tuck and Duncan all three related scenes of torture which they had eye-witnessed or which they had participated in. Besides these particular stories, there are affirmations of a general character: Martinson told us that "You could do anything you wanted to as long as you didn't leave marks."

Considering that all those who are involved apply torture, one finds that according to circumstances one can become a torturer.

And Duncan also told us: we were also encouraged to use our imagination. Insistence was on not to leave marks on the prisoners.

These testimonies from American fighting men who had participated themselves in acts they spoke out and who came here to obey their conscience, suffice, it seems to me, to give an affirmative answer to the question concerning the prisoners.

Furthermore, the American press does not deny the existence of torture, but lays the blame for it, in general, on the special forces or others which depend on the Saigon authorities and which are always present, at least as interpreters, during the interrogatory of the prisoners. On the other hand, we know from our witnesses that American officers are always present because they direct the interrogatory, that the torture is administered directly by the Americans too, and that, in any way, the American authorities are responsible for the treatment inflicted on the prisoners fallen into their hands, if, contrary to international obligations, they hand the prisoners over to other authorities.

WASHINGTON COMMITS CRIMES OF GENOCIDE AGAINST THE POPULATION

WE come to the most painful chapter of this war: the question of treatment of the civilian population. It should be added here that it is the Americans who are effectively conducting this war, that the Saigon authorities themselves depend on the American government which pays them and supports them with the massive presence of its armed forces, and finally that the Supreme Command is American and that the latter and the Government of Washington must be held responsible even for the excesses committed by the Saigon authorities with U.S. consent or on U.S. orders...

The term "genocide" is a recent expression adopted by the international criminal code only after the war. In the statute and the verdict of the Nuremberg Tribunal, the extermination of the Jews was included in the crimes against humanity, so it is a broader term which can also comprise other crimes than genocide. When these crimes against humanity are committed with the purpose of wiping out, completely or partially, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, they are nowadays called genocide.

Let us take a closer look at the situation. Tuck has told us that in the villages, they shoot at everything that moves, mainly at women and children for the men are elsewhere; we have been told about "free strike zones" in which anybody can be shot at; thousands of women and children are still gassed in shelters where they seek safety against the bombing, or die in the burning of their villages and their huts, or are killed by steel-pellet bombs released on the civilian population. "I want to see Vietnamese blood cover the ground," these are the words of Colonel Jackson reported by witness Tuck. "A village of straw huts was surrounded, attacked and burnt down without anybody bothering to see whether there was any person in the houses. I learnt later from the paratroops that many women had been burnt alive," relates Jean Bertolino, an eye-witness. And the same fate befell Da Phuc village which was mentioned yesterday by Dr. Wulff. And Madeleine Riffaud adds with a "case of extermination of children which is a part of a concerted plan." For his part, Roger Pic cites for us impressive figures for a single hamlet, the hamlet of Cong Doan in Binh Hoa Bac commune, which received for 500 inhabitants an average of 8 bombs per person and 4 shells per square metre, and this is but one among many other examples. Concerning the children alone, William Pepper, Director of the Children's Institute of Mercy College in New York, has published in the January 1967 issue of the *Ramparts* magazine the results of an investigation which has enabled him to estimate at 250,000 dead and 750,000 wounded the number of South Vietnamese children victims of aggression. And since this investigation, another year of extermination has elapsed and the number of victims has further increased. Senator Edward Kennedy estimates the number of wounded civilians in South Viet Nam at 150,000 per month.

Considering the population of South Viet Nam (14 million inhabitants) these figures are fraught with significance and it would be difficult to deny

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1967: VIGOROUS GROWTH OF WORLD SUPPORT

1967 saw a new, steady development in the worldwide movement in support of Viet Nam against U.S. aggression. In this third year of the U.S. "local war" in South Viet Nam and its war of destruction, mainly with air force, against the D.R.V.N., people of various countries had a clearer idea about the righteousness and the international significance of the Vietnamese people's fight for independence, peace and justice. Consequently, everybody gained a deeper and deeper sense of his responsibility, sided with Viet Nam, supported her and opposed the U.S. aggressors. The calls by various support-Viet Nam movement — "Silence is sin" and "Indifference is accomplice of the aggressor" — rallied more people from various social strata in different countries, helping the movement of the world's peoples in support of Viet Nam against U.S. aggression develop far and wide, unremittingly and ever more powerfully.

Leading the worldwide support-Viet Nam movement were the peoples of the socialist countries. In the past year, the brother countries continued to give the Vietnamese people increasingly stronger support and greater assistance, helping them strengthen their economic and defence potentials to foil all frenzied attacks by the U.S. imperialists and thereby eventually secure complete victory over their war of aggression.

At the grand meeting held on Nov. 3, 1967, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, L.I.Brezhnev, Secretary-General of the C.P.S.U. Central Committee, declared, "The Soviet Union is fully resolved to give maximum aid and support to the fraternal Vietnamese people in their struggle for a just cause. This aid will continue until the U.S. imperialists cease their criminal and disgraceful adventure and get out of Viet Nam. The Vietnamese people are fighting for a just cause and will be victorious. There can be no doubt about it."

In his Dec. 19, 1967 message of greeting sent to President Nguyen Huu Tho on the occasion of the 7th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam N.F.L., Chairman Mao Tse-tung said, "We firmly support you. We are neighbouring countries as closely related as the lips and the teeth. Our two peoples are brothers sharing weal and woe. The fraternal South Vietnamese people and the entire fraternal Vietnamese people can rest assured that their struggle is also ours. The 700 million Chinese people provide a powerful backing for the Vietnamese people; the vast expanse of China's territory is their reliable rear area. In face of the solid militant unity of our two peoples, all military adventures and political deceptions by U.S. imperialism are doomed to fail. Victory will definitely belong to the heroic Vietnamese people."

Leading Party and Government officials of other fraternal countries, on various occasions, declared full support for the just struggle and the sensible position of the Vietnamese people and made it clear that the socialist countries would continue increased economic and military aid to Viet Nam to fight and defeat the U.S. imperialist aggressors. The fruitful results of the visit, talks and signing of aid agreements by the D.R.V.N. Government economic delegation led by Vice-Premier Le Thanh Nghi once again indicated the tremendous and invaluable support and assistance given to the Vietnamese people by the fraternal countries.

The movement in support of Viet Nam against U.S. aggression is a mass, nationwide and ever broadening movement in the Soviet Union, China and all other socialist countries. The Korean people showed their resolve to unite closely with the Vietnamese people and give all-out support and assistance to Viet Nam in the fight against the common enemies — the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys. The Cuban people observed 1967 as "Year of Heroic Viet Nam" and provided the Vietnamese people with wholehearted support and assistance "including their blood," to fight and defeat the U.S. aggressors. The people of the G.D.R., Hungary, Rumania, Poland, Albania, Mongolia, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia also stepped up their support-Viet Nam movement, in the moral, political and material fields, and strongly denounced and condemned the atrocious war crimes and political intrigues of the U.S. imperialists. At many rallies and during many demonstrations, the peoples of the fraternal countries made it plain that the anti-U.S. fight of the Vietnamese people was a common fight to safeguard the common interest of the whole socialist camp, and that the peoples of the socialist countries were resolved to support and assist Viet Nam in all fields including the sending of volunteers in order to defeat the U.S. aggressors.

Alongside the socialist countries, the international communist movement continued to support the Vietnamese people vigorously. The Japanese and French communist parties zealously urged the workers and other labouring people of their countries to give increased support to Viet Nam and to condemn U.S. aggression; communist parties of many other countries including Thailand, Britain, Canada, the U.S., Italy, Austria, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Spain and Colombia issued statements warmly supporting the Vietnamese people and condemning the U.S. imperialist aggressors.

As the most positive part of the revolutionary struggle for national liberation, the patriotic struggle of the Vietnamese people received broad support from the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America. The government and people of Cambodia, the *Neo Lao Hahsat*, the patriotic neutralist forces and the people of Laos united closely with the Vietnamese people in the fight against U.S. imperialist aggression. The relations of friendship and militant solidarity between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the South Viet Nam N.F.L. and the D.R.V.N. continued to develop satisfactorily. Cambodian Head of State Norodom Sihanouk on many occasions expressed firm support for the Vietnamese people's war of resistance, strongly condemned the U.S. imperialist aggressors and reiterated the Cambodian people's determination to side with the Vietnamese people in the struggle for the defence of the independence and sovereignty of the two countries and peace in Indo-China. On behalf of the Lao people, Prince Souphanouvong, Chairman of the *Neo Lao Hahsat*, stressed the resolve of the Lao people to unite with the Vietnamese people and to fight and defeat the U.S. aggressors.

In all the three continents of Asia, Africa and Latin America, voices were heard in support of Viet Nam against U.S. imperialism. The Heads of the governments of Syria, the U.A.R., Algeria, Mali, Guinea, the Congo (B), Tanzania, Mauritania, Senegal, Burundi, Afghanistan and other countries declared support for the struggle of the Vietnamese people for independence and freedom. The peoples of various countries — from Burma, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaya, India, Singapore, Yemen, Iraq, Indonesia... in Asia, and the U.A.R., Algeria, Morocco, Tanzania... in Africa, to Uruguay, Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Bolivia... in Latin America — stepped up their movement in support of Viet Nam against U.S. aggression. In a number of countries whose rulers were servants of U.S. imperialism or failed after U.S. imperialism in its aggression in Viet Nam, such as Malaya, the Philippines and Thailand, the peoples defied terror and courageously stood up against U.S. aggression in Viet Nam. The working class of many Asian countries pushed up their struggle in support of Viet Nam: Thai workers went on strike to boycott munitions transport for the U.S.; U.A.R. workers held meetings and chanted slogans, "Long live heroic Viet Nam!" and "Down with U.S. imperialist aggressors!" Latin American writers and poets donated blood. Asian, African and Latin American people's organizations such as the Tri-Continental People's Solidarity Organization, the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization, the Afro-Asian Writers' Association, the Afro-Asian Journalists' Association, national organizations of Africa, the African Women's Congress etc. issued statements supporting Viet Nam, condemning the U.S. crimes of aggression and escalations.

In the past year, the movement of the workers and other people in the capitalist countries against the U.S. criminal war of aggression continued to forge ahead. Most remarkable was the action taken by the Japanese people: 10 million Japanese workers took part in the Spring united action for wage increase and in protest against U.S. aggression in Viet Nam; 18 million Japanese signed petitions demanding an end to U.S. aggression in Viet Nam; millions of Japanese railway workers walked out, paralysing U.S. military transport for several days. In the countries of West Europe, the support-Viet Nam movement clearly gained great momentum. The French people staged many demonstrations with the participation of hundreds of thousands of persons to support Viet Nam and condemn the U.S. Tens of thousands of workers and other people in Belgium, Britain, Italy, West Germany, the Netherlands, Austria etc... held demonstrations against U.S. aggression in Viet Nam. The peoples of Norway, Sweden, Finland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Switzerland, Spain, Greece, etc... also organized rallies and demonstrations and set up support-Viet Nam committees. West Berliners picketed U.S. offices and shouted "Support Ho Chi Minh!" Two hundred and thirty thousand Danes signed petitions demanding an end to U.S. aggression in Viet Nam. Australian workers refused to transport South Viet Nam-bound armament for the U.S. and Australian reactionaries. Peoples of Western Europe and countries demonstrated and stoned U.S. Vice-President Humphrey during his visit to their lands. The movement to collect material aid for Viet Nam expanded daily. The Heads of the governments of a number of capitalist countries, such as France, Denmark, Sweden and Finland, came out against the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam.

A very significant action undertaken by progressive people in the West to support Viet Nam was the International War Crimes Tribunal initiated by well-known British peace fighter Bertrand Russell. The Tribunal's two sessions exposed to the world the extremely savage crimes perpetrated by the U.S. imperialists in Viet Nam and thereby helped push ahead the anti-war movement in various countries. In the past year, such international organizations as the W.F.T.U., the W.F.D.Y., the W.I.D.F. and the World Peace Council issued statements on many occasions in support of the Vietnamese people's just struggle.

Generally speaking, in 1967, the movement of the world's peoples in support of Viet Nam against U.S. aggression show ed marked development compared with the previous years. In diversified forms the world's peoples resolutely demanded that the U.S. end its aggression against Viet Nam, stop bombing North Viet Nam, withdraw its own and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, recognize the South Viet Nam N.F.L. as the sole authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people and let the Vietnamese settle their own affairs themselves. The 4 points of the D.R.V.N., the Jan. 28, 1967 statement of the D.R.V.N. Foreign Ministry and the N.F.L. Political Programme received warm support from the world at large which considered them the only sensible way to settle the Viet Nam problem.

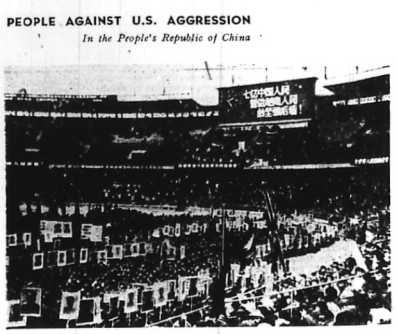
The cause of the ceaseless development of the worldwide support-Viet Nam movement is the growing impact of the Viet Nam war on everybody. The atrocious war in Viet Nam is the focal issue of the world at present. This war is being fought by the Vietnamese people to defend their independence against the U.S. imperialist aggressors who, relying on their modern military force, try to enslave the Vietnamese people. The heroic fight of the Vietnamese people is a fight for their right to live and at the same time for peace, freedom and justice. On the other hand, through their war of aggression against Viet Nam, the U.S. imperialists have exposed themselves as gangsters and wicked murderers whose savageries have outmatched the Hitlerite fascists. Their monstrous crimes in Viet Nam are an open challenge to the whole of mankind. Johnson's hypocritical profession of peace only betrays the ultra-reactionary nature of U.S. imperialism. It is clear that the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam is a serious threat to the independence and freedom of all peoples in the world.

(Continued page 7)

MEETINGS IN SUPPORT OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AGAINST U.S. AGGRESSION

In the Soviet Union

In the People's Republic of China



LETTER FROM HANOI

A "TET" Unlike the Others

THE lunar year is drawing to a close and Tet is coming. The village, the streets and the homes are bustling with activities. "Look you! I've been able to buy exactly the same things as last year," my wife said to me while displaying in front of me a pair of chickens, bags of orange and gabes and other delicacies and eatables. And brandishing a bough of peach blossom, she exclaimed, "It is even more beautiful than that of last year!" I replied, "Are you surprised that we are able to have an enjoyable Tet as in the previous years?" It took her one minute's thinking before she gave the answer, "I well remember three years ago."

Three years ago: it was the 7th of February 1965, a few days after Tet. U.S. planes began the desperate bombing of our country. I can still see in my mind's eye the gloomy face of my wife who said, "What are we going to do? Surely we shall resist, but where shall we be, each one of us? And our kid, still so small?" then her look lost into the distance, "When shall we be able to enjoy Tet as before?" Three years have gone by. Bombs have rained by the hundreds of thousands on our cities and villages. The offices in which my wife and I are employed have been dispersed in different villages, our kid has had to be put in a children's camp. On holidays, we take each our bike, riding some 40 kilometres to see and hug him. The roads we usually take have been bombed many times, but the bridges are quickly repaired, bomb craters filled up and every time we are able to get through.

Here we are, all three, together again for 48 hours. I look at my wife. She has lost some weight: some 8okm ride for each visit, that is something for a frail woman like her. It is hard to be separated from her husband and her child. Yet she is much more composed than before. Her gesture and her face are manifestly more relaxed. I would rather say de-contracted. At each alert, she calmly goes and closes the shutters, switches off the light then runs for shelter. When she talks about the events of war, her voice takes on a confident tone which is unknown to me.

Our kid, he too, has grown up. Physically, of course, but morally too. For him, the ordeal of separation has been tough. Not far from his mother, he has learnt to shift for himself; in his behaviour, in his answers, we clearly find that he has thought over quite many things. On aircraft, he never dries up. F.105, Phantom, Mig 17, Mig 21, he recognises them from their form and their noise because he has seen them twirl, strike, release their bombs or explode in the sky, fatally hit by a missile or an A.A projectile. After the outbreak of World War II, I knew in Europe many a child who could not hear the sound of planes without shuddering with horror. There is nothing of the like with our boy: nobody is more rapid than him to take to shelter, but what commands his interest is less the demolished houses or mutilated bodies — all things he has had the opportunity to see — than our missiles, our bullets, our shells that follow hot on the air pirates - areal hunting party. In the shelter, he follows the battle, in imagination, computes, surmises, advances figures on the number of downed planes, and taps his hands upon hearing a missile rear its way up.

Delicacies, eatables, peach flowers, here we are, reunited on this eve of Tet at our home, feeling the joy of getting together again, and this deep joy, intimately linked to centuries-old memories, the joy to celebrate Tet, to live Tet, this joy, so purely and so specifically Vietnamese.

I look around me, at the neighbours and the men in the streets, and into the shops. I feel this same joy in everybody. I feel there is yet something other than the joy of family reunion, of celebrating Tet as our forefathers had done for centuries.

The verses of one of our poets, Cu Huy Can, Vice Minister of Culture, come back to my mind:

To make war is no picnic at all,
To fight the U.S.A. is not to go to a festival,
A great joy however fills our hearts.

Yes, everyone of us — through all efforts, hardships sufferings and sacrifices — profoundly feel this joy to hold victory in his hands, the joy to take part in a grandiose fight in defence of the ancestors' heritage, the future of the children, and for the whole of mankind, too: Yes, the 1968 Tet is, will be a Tet like the others, notwithstanding U.S. bombs. And also a Tet unlike the others.

TET Preparations

It is the same room with the same men and women but the mood is quite different from that ten days earlier. That day — the day of year-end work review — the bureau of the Trade Union at the Q.T. Electro-Mechanical Workshop was full of charts. There were inspiring figures: although the factory had been divided into three sections and evacuated from the town and heaps of difficulties cropped up the State plans have continuously been fulfilled ahead of schedule in the past three years. The plan was fulfilled 15 days ahead of schedule in 1967, 11 days in 1966 and 8 days in 1965. A growing number of machines of this local enterprise has been sent to the countryside to help agricultural production and the farmers' life.

Today the Trade Union bureau of the workshop looked exactly like a Lunar New Year Festival goods counter. On the tables were a host of paper flags and flower and paper scrolls to write New Year parallel sentences on. There was also a good many freshly made musical instruments and equally new volley balls. By the door were some peach blossoms, as fresh and beautiful as the incoming Spring and a few decorative *cumquat* trees with bright yellow fruits and roots wrapped in areca sheaths waiting to be transplanted. Meanwhile, Nguyen Van Hang and his aides were busy like sellers at a department store on a Saturday evening. Trade Union cadres in charge of the workers' life and educational work from various departments were crowding into their bureau to receive consignments of goods, place orders for new goods or seek advice for the year-end socials and the vigil on the New Year eve when the radio would broadcast President Ho Chi Minh's New Year greetings...

"Very hard indeed, you see. Our work is confined to the buying and distribution of *Tet* goods, yet there is a lot to do. But we shall see it through anyway. We think of the trade department workers who occasionally shed blood on their way buying goods and transporting them to the production and combat units, to the people in the countryside and the towns as well. We think of the decision of the trade service to supply enough *banh chung* (traditional rice cakes prepared on the occasion of Lunar New Year Festival— *Ed.*) to the population of Hanoi capital. It is estimated that our trade service workers will have to purchase and transport no less than 15 million wrapping leaves from places 300 or 400km away to Hanoi for the making of *banh chung*. It is because we think of the determination of the Party and Government to ensure to everyone a merry and well-catered-for *Tet* even in wet time that the Trade Union organization of our factory has been striving to provide each cadre and worker with one extra kilo of meat, a few litres of cooking oil and some sugar and sweet meat in addition to the rations provided by the State on this occasion."

Seeing my surprise, Nguyen Van Hang explained:

"To supply a working staff of 500 or 600 people with such a quantity of meat, oil, sugar and sweet meat posed a big problem, no doubt. But we have a stock-breeding and crop-growing farm of our own. The question is how to get so many things done at the same time because we must prepare for *Tet* while striving to overfulfil the production plan and ensure effective defence against enemy raids. As you see, in the recent work review our factory decided to raise the norm to 10 per cent above last year's level and fulfil more than one third of the plan in the first quarter of the year. We have made up our minds to translate into deeds President Ho Chi Minh's appeal: "All our 31 million compatriots must turn into 31 million valiant fighters against the U.S. aggressors." As regards the air-raid defence, after improving the system of shelters and trenches at the production bases, we are calling on the workers and giving them facilities to build cement air-raid shelters at their homes."

As I was toying with some musical instruments, Nguyen Van Hang explained in anticipation:

"We have bought some more guitars and flutes to supply the art groups at the production bases, and volley balls and nets, too because our workshop already has 7 teams, male and female."

Seeing me to the gate, Hang did not forget to invite me to the evening party on the last-day of the lunar year where a show will be given and a ceremony will be held to welcome President Ho's New Year greetings. He said excitingly:

"There will be a lot of new items. The numbers of our art troupes are doing their best under the watchword, 'Let us drown the enemy bomb explosions with our song.' We workers want to prove to the warmongers in Washington that not only in our production and combat activities but also in our daily life, has their scheme to bend the Vietnamese people or to 'bomb North Viet Nam back into the Stone Age' failed completely."

THE U.S. GUILTY OF CRIMES OF GENOCIDE...

(Continued from page 3)

that we are here dealing with the partial destruction of the Vietnamese nation (I repeat once more that even partial destruction is mentioned in the international convention, in the chapter dealing with genocide) and that this destruction indiscriminately hits all the Vietnamese, independently of their personal attitude. And naturally it is voluntary destruction.

But there is also another aspect of the problem concerning genocide ; it is the concentration camps.

Duncan has stated that — according to government sources, one-third of the population is confined to camps and these are garbage dumps where the conditions of the inmenes are frightful. For his part, Martinson has made clear that in the camps, the people are hungry and in rags, and they are forced to fight one another for bits of American garbage. Jean Bertolino has described for us one of these camps where 6,500 persons were livin g crowded under tents, behind barbed wire, just as in a concentration camp. Dr. Wulff has told us about the provinces of Binh Dinh and Phu Yen where half of the population has been confined.

Snatched away from their villages and their ricefields, deprived of their resources, sons often separated from parents who might never see them again. There is no denying that the South Vietnamese were subjected to conditions of existence which, as such, would ultimately entail their physical destruction — at least partial. In the same way, the destruction of the family cell, which is the direct result of these forced concentrations of persons carried away from their houses, cannot be considered only from the angle of a grave infringement of the social institutions, referring as such to cultural life, because in Vietnamese society as in the civilisation of most agricultural countries, the family is the essential nucleus of life which responds not only to the social needs but also to the physical needs of existence.

History supplies us many examples of populations who have been destroyed wholly or partly by the forced change of the conditions of their daily life. Likewise, the fact that the cities are from now on turned into immense ghettos where tens of thousands of women cannot survive but by prostitution, come within this criminal framework.

Also comes within this framework the fact that the crops and food reserves have been systematically destroyed by fire or chemical and bacteriological agents. This destruction which the Americans would like to justify for being aimed at doing harm to the combatants, has taken on such proportions that it creates and prepares for the future—and this is still more serious — conditions of undernourishment which can destroy a whole people physically.

It can be thus concluded that a crime of genocide is being committed daily in Viet Nam and, as Mr. Matarasso has put it, it is impossible to take off from the American Government its responsibility under the pretext that genocide is due to the resistance of the Vietnamese people, and that it would cease if the latter accepted to live under U.S. domination. Each people have the right to live the way they choose, which is in keeping with a tradition, a culture, the conditions of development, the necessities and the right to self-determination proclaimed so often by the U.N.O. which reaffirmed it recently, and which is a fundamental rule of present international law. Against this fundamental rule of civil co-existence, American imperialism today places the peoples before the permanent dilemmal of a choice between submission and physical destruction, between slavery and genocide. I believe that it is in this direction that our judgement must tend.

★

The report condemned U.S. aggression against the Kingdom of Cambodia and Laos and the complicity of U.S. satellite countries — South Korea, Thailand, the Philippines, Australia and New Zealand — in U.S. aggression and crimes in Viet Nam (Ed.)

(To be continued)

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN 1967

(Continued from page 8)

FARMING TECHNIQUES IMPROVED CEASELESSLY

PARALLEL to the full utilization of arable lands, great importance was attached to intensive cultivation everywhere in 1967. Front committees at all levels paid attention to the training of agricultural technicians. 200 of these have been trained in Long Xuyen, Chau Doc and Ben Tre provinces. The Central Trung Bo Peasants' Liberation Association opened veterinary and animal-husbandry courses for provincial and district cadres. According to *Giai Phong Press Agency*, during the first three quarters of the year, the people dug or dredged 9,000km of irrigation ditches in Nam Bo delta, laced with rivers and arroyos. In March and April, L. (Tra Vinh) was endowed with four new canals running through a wide area formerly subjected to frequent drought and waterlogging, thus ensuring the supply of water to over 3,000 ha of ricefields. Four districts in Rach Gia province were watered by 1,490km of canals while another 1,413km were dredged and 25km of dams erected to prevent the inflow of salt water. By June, Ca Mau had built or repaired 621 dams, reinforced 500km of salt water-protecting dykes, built one cement culvert and 48km of dykes for the protection of Nam Can Forest and U Minh Forest along Doc River. In the Winter of 1966 and Spring of 1967 the inhabitants of Quang Nam dug 12,000 ponds and 135 canals for irrigation purposes and built 100 dams and 100 waterwheels.

The manuring of rice and subsidiary food crops also made substantial progress. Ben Tre prepared 15,000 tons of animal manure to substitute for the major part of chemical fertilizers, costly and hard to procure, thereby saving some 7 million South Viet Nam *piasires*. My Tho, Tra Vinh, Soc Trang and some other provinces widely used azolla, which allowed a per hectare yield increase of 30 to 100 *gia* (one *gia* is equivalent to 20kg).

Meanwhile, the selection of short-time rice seeds gave a better yield. With the so-called "Uncle Ho" seed the peasants of My Tho, Tay Ninh, Tra Vinh and Rach Gia brought in from 3 to 4 tons per hectare. Other varieties such *Tra Trung Tu*, *Lua Lo* and "813" were grown in many regions. The "till and harvest all the year round" motto was being translated into reality.

As a result, last year's agricultural production in all areas of South Viet Nam was superior or at least equal to that of 1966. In Central Nam Bo it went up by 12 to 15 per cent., in the Plains of Reeds, which was of low productivity, and where a special seed was used, the peasants harvested from 2 to 2.6 tons per hectare for each crop. With other selected seeds, the peasants in the plains got an average of 2.4 to 3.2 tons/ha. South Trung Bo surpassed the annual per capita mealy substance target of 250kg while in the hill areas the people attained the 450kg mark.

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

SCANNING THE WESTERN PRESS

A GENERAL OFFENSIVE

FRANCOIS NIVOLON
AFP, Jan. 11, 1968

"THIS general offensive is characterized by a series of unremitting and co-ordinated attacks launched by Viet Cong since the end of the January 1 short truce; at least for the moment, U.S. troops lost the initiative. The Front men hammered essentially at three regions: the coastal region of Central Viet Nam, the sector lying immediately in the east of Saigon and the Delta.

A fierce battle was raging throughout the last night in the Delta, 85km south of the capital city, and for the first time over one thousand G.I.s of Division 9 entered into action following a Viet Cong attack in the small hours of the day; the result was 46 Viet Cong killed and 11 killed and 30 wounded among G.I.s.

All the previous days, the guerillas attacked many localities in the Delta. Yesterday, at dawn, they mortared and invested Kim Son district capital, An Giang province (formerly Rach Gia) at least relatively calm so far.

Since the beginning of the week, they attacked many times Tra Vinh province, bombing Tra Cu district capital between Soc Trang and Bac Lieu where a bridge about one hundred metres long, was blown up 15km south of Soc Trang, betwen Can Tho and Vi Thanh, a rich rice producing region. Ba Cang district capital was mortar shelled by Viet Cong who succeeded in penetrating into the heart of the town. Let us recall since a few days, the shelling and investment of Tan Uyen, 32km north of Saigon, the attack on the C.P. of Vietnamese Division 25 at Duc Hoa, 40km west of the capital (a garrison which received 600 shells in two hours), the encirclement of Khiem Cuong, provincial capital of Hau Nghia, some kilometres from Duc Hoa, the shelling of Moc Hoa provincial capital, 80km west of Saigon, the attack against the H.Q. of a U.S. unit, 40km west of the capital, the bombardment of Cu Chi, C.P. of U.S. Infantry Division 25, 40km north from Saigon, etc.

In Central Viet Nam, Viet Cong pressed hard their attacks. After the shelling of Da Nang on Jan. 3, there were a series of attacks on U.S. and Vietnamese positions near the U.S. biggest air and ground base in South Viet Nam and the other powerful base of the region: Chu Lai. Other attacks on combined-action platoon: joint Viet Nam-U.S. local militia, between Da Nang and the 17th parallel. Many fierce battles took place especially at Que Son and Tam Ky, half way between Chu La and Da Nang bases.

In the Western High Plateaux, after murderous battles at Dac To a relative calmness prevailed. But it was only and outward appearance. Viet Cong were present near Dac To, where they sowed terror into villages even near Kontum, the airfield of which was stormed yesterday: 24 helicopters were destroyed or damaged.

A few days earlier, Pleiku airfield was mortar shelled, with the destruction of 15 helicopters, and the Viet Cong succeeded in penetrating into the heart of the town which was not heavily defended."

N.L.F. TAKES INITIATIVE IN WAR

N.J. DUFFETT
National Guardian, Dec. 23, 1967

"NORMALLY the U.S. forces launch offensives around the end of October, the beginning of the dry season, and these operations carry them through to May or June of the following year.

The monsoon in Viet Nam has been a little late in departing this year, but now, approaching the end of December, there has been no sign of a forthcoming U.S. offensive. The offensives have all been by the N.L.F.

'During Madame Kennedy's visit to Cambodia,' said Wilfred Burchett, 'I spoke with several American correspondents who had come to Pnom Penh to cover her visit. They told me that just a week before the 28th or 29th of October, General Westmoreland had briefed a very few carefully selected correspondents in Saigon. He told them that the military situation for the U.S. has 'improved' to the point that the Vietcong was no longer capable of launching attacks involving more than battalion strength and certainly could not mount any large-scale offensives. Within a week of that briefing a series of large-scale offensives involving five or six regiments and perhaps several divisions of N.L.F. attacked Loc Ninh and Dakto.'

In military jargon 'initiative' is defined by who decides when, where and how engagements will be fought. Not only at Loc Ninh and Dakto, but most recently in a simultaneous attack on three U.S. bases in Long An province in the Mekong Delta, only 25 miles from Saigon, the N.L.F. has called the tune."

THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMED FORCES ATTACK ON ALL BATTLEFIELDS

— *91 U.S. Military Vehicles Destroyed in the Western High Plateaux (Jan. 15).*

— *Heavy Losses of U.S. Marines South of the 17th Parallel.*

IN the week ending Jan. 22, 1968, the P.L.A.F. attaked the enemy unremittingly at various towns and townlets and on all battlefields. According to *Giai Phong Press Agency*, fierce battles took place in **Khe Sanh and Doc Mieu, south of the 17th parallel** in the second week of January 1968.

From Jan. 19 to 21, the U.S. positions at Khe Sanh, on Highway 9, 60km from the sea in Vay village, on Hills 881 and 861 and around Khe Sanh were violently attacked as well as U.S. Marines patrolling out of their positions. At Khe Sanh alone, nearly 300 Marines were killed or wounded. The survivors left the urban centre on Jan. 21. Meanwhile, farther to the northeast, at a few kilometres from the seacoast, the P.L.A.F. hammered at Doc Mieu. In this sector, between Jan. 7 and 22, 900 enemy troops were put out of action, to military vehicles destroyed.

IN **Quang Nam** province, near Da Nang after 1,600 enemy troops had been put out of action at Que Son from January 3 to 7, on the night of Jan. 9, the P.L.A.F. attacked the H.Q. of U.S. Light Infantry Brigade 196 which suffered great losses.

The result of the attack on Da Nang air base on Jan. 3 was 67 aircraft and 2 ammunition depots destroyed and 160 G.I.'s put out of action, according to *Giai Phong Press Agency*.

GIAI PHONG Press Agency gave details of the P.L.A.F. attack against an important enemy base 50km north of **Qui Nhon** town in the small hours of Jan. 10, 1968: the whole base was under the control of the P.L.A.F. who completely wiped out Battalion 2, Regiment 22 including the battalion command and a company of reinforcement.

It is clear that not only were the P.L.A.F. not repelled to the hilly regions as claimed by the American officers, but they even struck hard at the enemy in these provinces.

THE battlefield in the **Mekong Delta** also commands our attention. In the flush of their past victories, on the night of Jan. 17, the P.L.A.F. hammered at enemy positions in **Vinh Long** and **Tra Vinh** provinces: the C.P.'s of enemy sub-sectors suffered heavy losses and many buildings were destroyed. These two towns had previously been attacked on the night of Jan. 7.

Especially in **My Tho** province, *Giai Phong Press Agency* reported that between Dec. 28, 1967 and Jan. 10, 1968, the P.L.A.F. had fought off an enemy operation aimed at clearing Highway 4: 1,800 soldiers including 300 G.I.'s were put out of action between 85 and 100km southwest of Saigon. 22 aircraft were shot down, 3 105mm cannons destroyed and a war vessel sent to the bottom.

ON Jan. 15, two enemy convoys were intercepted on the section of **Highway 19** between An Khe base of U.S. First Air Cavalry Division and Pleiku town. In a battle at 32km west of An Khe, the P.L.A.F. destroyed or damaged 56 military vehicles, killed or wounded 156 G.I.'s. The second battle which took place 12km from An Khe, 35 vehicles were destroyed and 70 enemy soldiers killed or wounded. In the two battles the enemy lost 91 military vehicles and 179 G.I.'s.

On Jan. 19, the P.L.A.F. hammered at Pleiku town, causing serious damage to the C.P. of puppet task force No. 2 and the airfield. The next night, the C.P. of Engineers' Unit 937 and U.S. Sapper Battalion 815 in the town were stormed.

On Jan. 20, a column of U.S. Infantry Division 4 raiding a locality 12km west of Dac To townlet were attacked together with a post of Rangers and a U.S. gun emplacement near Dac To. The enemy admitted 67 casualties among the G.I.'s.

A SPLENDID SUCCESS

(Continued from page 1)

the beginning of the year. The American invaders started with Operation *Junction City*, the greatest effort in their dry-season strategic counter-offensive. However, it came to a complete flop, thus sealing the doom of their second dry-season counter-offensive. This setback shattered to the ground all the U.S. aggressors' dream to turn the tables. Since then they have been sinking deeper and deeper in their quagmire. In the following Summer-Autumn the American invaders tried but in vain to ward off losses. Within five months enemy casualties in general, and those of the U.S. and satellite troops in particular, ran to four-fifths of the previous seven-month Winter-Spring figure. At the outset of the current Winter-Spring the situation of the American invaders was none too bright. Not only were they unable to launch any sizable counter-offensive, but they also had to fall back upon the defensive right at the start and suffered setback after setback in all theatres of operations. Never before had they received such a sound beating: the number of enemy battalions wiped out increased by two and a half times.

The realities on the battlefields in 1967 threw a strong light upon the U.S. aggressors' predicament. There are ample damning evidence of this. That their passiveness throughout 1967, which grew with the time, affected all theatres of operations, not only in strategy but also in tactics and combat. That is the intolerable strain, and stress on the mounting losses of their mobile forces. That is their receding position at the beginning of this Winter-Spring which was at the bottom of their passiveness in front of attacks. That is Westmoreland's loud clamour for more American expeditionary troops and the hurried airlift of the 101st Parachute Division to South Viet Nam at the fall of last year. That is Johnson's dismissal of Lodge, Porter, Lansdale and even Defence Secretary McNamara together with a host of presidential aides. The realities in 1967 show beyond any doubt that the U.S. aggressors are losing militarily and cannot escape total defeat.

The American invaders are also suffering heavy setbacks in other fields. Their two-pincer strategy has lamentably failed. Their "pacification" scheme has gone up in smoke in the fire of people's war. More than one "pacification teams" — one-fifth of the corps — has been wiped out. The remainder has been badly mauled or paralysed. The people's liberated areas have been firmly consolidated and expanded.

The varnish the "elections" force put on the Thieu — Ky gang to furbish its facade has in fact laid bare their true colours as running dogs and aggravated the differences among the traitors. The puppet army keeps disintegrating steadily.

In 1967 the Johnson clique found itself in a state of unprecedented isolation. The stirring actions involving millions of Americans and other peoples against the war of aggression in Viet Nam, the two sessions of the Bertrand Russell War Crimes Tribunal to try the U.S. aggressors and their satellites, world opinion sternly condemning the Johnson gang, all these events have thrown light on the latter's utter isolation in the five continents and even in the United States. Defeated and isolated, the Washington rulers are torn by internal dissensions. The difficulties in draft and military build-up, in economy and finance, added to military and political failures, completely marred the 1967 picture. For the American aggressors, 1967 was a year of ever heaviest all-round setbacks.

1967: VIGOROUS GROWTH...

(Continued from page 5)

With this in mind, the world's peoples have given Viet Nam ever growing support, more and more linked their destinies with Viet Nam's, and resolutely sided with Viet Nam to oppose U.S. imperialist aggression. "Dauntless Viet Nam is our last freedom!" These words said from the bottom of his heart by Jean Paul Sartre, French peace fighter and Chairman of the Bertrand Russell International War Crimes Tribunal, forcefully imply that for all men of goodwill, to defend Viet Nam is to defend independence, freedom, peace, justice, moral ethics and human dignity—something people cherish and respect, to defend themselves and their own nation against the threat of U.S. imperialism and to end their own conscience's qualms. The development of the support Viet Nam movement marked a significant rise in terms of the world peoples ;evolutionary consciousness and feeling of international solidarity. The drive constitutes a striking feature of our era.

The Vietnamese people sincerely thank their brothers and friends in all five continents for their invaluable support. We fear neither sacrifices nor hardships and are determined to fight and defeat the U.S. imperialist aggressors, the most dangerous enemy of our people and of the whole of mankind as well. Complete victory will surely belong to the Vietnamese and the world's peoples.

QUANG THAI

NORTH VIETNAM NEWS IN BRIEF

(Continued from page 2)

in schools, complementary education classes, primary schools and infant classes. This figure increases by 50 per cent compared with that of textbooks of primary education printed in the last five years.

COMPARED with 1966, the money deposited in 1967 in the Savings Bank by the people of North Viet Nam increased by nearly 55 per cent. Quang Binh province, near the provisional demarcation line, where fierce battles are given daily to the enemy, takes the lead in terms of the money deposited per head of inhabitant.

THE Viet Nam Children's Song and Dance Theatre was inaugurated in Hanoi on the occasion of the New Year. Its aim is to initiate children of all ages in the performance, training and study of stagecraft, and to help promote the art movement powerfully among them.

IN 1967, workers of 12 enterprises in the Quang Ninh mining area introduced 1,245 innovations to rationalize production and make the best use of materials available to equip themselves with hundreds of machines.

RECENTLY 300 artistes (belonging to nine nationalities) of six artistic ensembles have performed nearly one hundred items including poems, songs, dances and music at the Art Festival Against the U.S., for National Salvation, organized in the Viet Bac Autonomous Region. In the past two years the artistic ensembles of Viet Bac overcame great difficulties caused by the war to provide with entertainment their compatriots and fighters in the highlands. Five out of these six ensembles have of late performed 1,700 items for an attendance of nearly one million.

THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMED FORCES ATTACK ON ALL BATTLEFIELDS

☆ *91 U.S. Military Vehicles Destroyed in the Western High Plateaux (Jan. 15).*

☆ *Heavy Losses of U.S. Marines South of the 17th Parallel.*

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AN UNEQUAL BATTLE

9 a. m. Fierce fighting erupted on the nameless hills near village Soa in the northwestern part of Quang Tri province between a U.S. Marine unit and a platoon of the South Viet Nam P.L.A.F. The Americans were in an advantageous position because they were bigger in numbers and on higher hills. They blazed away in the direction of the 5th squad. To relieve pressure on the friendly unit, group leader Le Van Suc suggested to squad commander Phiet to flank the enemy from the right. Phiet agreed. Like three arrows, Suc, Mong and Chu darted off. Caught unawares from their right side, some of the Yanks broke away, yelling. Others concentrated their fire on the right. Having drawn the enemy fire to it, the group under Suc's command gave efficacious support to the friendly unit. Propping his submachinegun against a tree trunk, Chu pressed the trigger intermittently while Mong and Suc lying by his side sniped at the enemy one by one. A Yank with field-glasses hiding behind a rock emerged now and then and waved a yellow flag, and each time he did so, heavy bursts of gunfire were released.

"We must get this swine first," Suc said to himself while crawling toward Mong and signing to him to watch the man with a yellow flag. Mong understood and pointed the barrel of his submachine-gun in the direction of the rock. Seeing no return fire the American officer sprung up and signaled with his yellow flag. Mong pressed the trigger. The fellow was hit in full chest and toppled, the flag was thrown several yards away. Two other G.I.'s near him showed their heads and were killed instantly by two fresh dead shots from Suc and Mong. Three Americans crawled out to pull back the body of their commander.

The three heads huddled together.

Two bursts of submachine-guns rang out from Suc and Chu. The three G.I.'s crumbled and lay motionless. Without losing a second, the group under Suc tore their way up the hill. The friendly squads on their side also rushed up in many prongs. The Liberation forces occupied the second hill top. Their guns kept spitting fire on the enemy.

From where he was lying Suc saw clearly Ky planting his machinegun and printing it to the middle of the enemy formation. Ignoring the steady incoming gunfire, Tran Ky calmly fired his gun in his prone position. Dozens of enemy troops had been moved down by his shots. Suddenly from a bush on the second hill top a hidden machine-gun nest began spitting fire in Ky's direction. Ky pressed the gun against his chest and collapsed. Seeing that Ky had been hit, Suc felt an indescribable anger, his throat seemed to be choked up. He crawled to Chu and Mong and said to them: "You provide cover on both sides and I'll go up there to knock them out and avenge Comrade Ky." Snaking his way among the elephant grass, Suc came to within less than 20 metres of the enemy machinegun which kept firing relentlessly. Clenching his teeth, Suc sprang up and tossed two hand grenades in succession. Dust and smoke completely shrouded the machinegun. The four American gunners lay dead in a pool of blood. Seizing the opportunity, Suc, Mong and Chu quickly made a flank assault on the enemy on the hill top. The Americans fled for their lives, five radio operators jettisoned their apparatuses in their flight. Suc and Chu fired two bursts of submachineguns on them and Mong finished them off with three shots. The surviving G.I.'s regrouped behind a grove to organize resistance. But the 4th and 5th squads and Phiet's group had closed their encirclement. Platoon commander Chuong ordered Suc's group to swing round and block the enemy's retreat.

"Get your grenades ready!" went the stentorian voice of Chuong which drowned even the enemy gun fire. Hand grenades were rained into the tree grove, silencing the last pockets of resistance. A few survivors tore down the hill but were wiped out by Suc's group. The second hill top came under the Liberation forces' control.

Infuriated by the heavy losses, the Americans rushed in reinforcements in a desperate attempt to hold on to the third hill top. From the edge of the forest, they moved in single file, firing wantonly in front of them and on both sides. A reconnaissance biplane dropped smoke grenades here and there. On orders from platoon commander Chuong the group under Suc immediately took a short cut through the bush to outflank the enemy and chop up its formations.

Arriving at the saddle-shaped hills the group took up position and closely watched the movement of the incoming reinforcements. Ten, twenty then thirty of them had moved within firing range. An American soldier carrying a heavy machinegun was only a dozen yards from Suc.

"Don't fire, just wait," Suc whispered into his neighbour's ear while calmly pointing the barrel of his gun at the moving enemy soldiers.

He waited until the 36th and last soldier had come within firing range before shouting "Fire!"

Surprised by this assault from behind the American troops stopped short, perplexed. But before they knew where they were, the 4th and 5th squads on either side of the road fired their guns and threw their grenades on them. Not a single ambushed man escaped.

Noon. The P.L.A.F. had seized complete control of the battle-ground. The nameless hills near village Soa in the Khe Sanh valley were littered with bodies of killed or wounded G.I's. A company of U.S. Marines had been completely wiped out.

(From *Giai Phong Press Agency*)

IN THE LIBERATED ZONES OF SOUTH VIET NAM

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN 1967

NO FALLOW LAND

ONE is inclined to think that by pouring down tens of thousands of tons of bombs and shells and toxic chemicals and launching thousands of raids to destroy food crops, kill cattle and herd the population into concentration camps, the Yanks and their agents could thus hit at the source of life of the population and bring to a standstill the most vital economic activities in the liberated areas of South Viet Nam. However, on the fields under the control of the N.F.L. rice was cultivated even on plots of land still reeking with gun-powder.

In Operation *Cedar Falls*, everyone remembers, 7,000 peasants at Ben Cat were penned up and 55 per cent of their crops destroyed. Not long after they returned home and again put no less than one hundred hectares under three-month rice, and a thousand hectares under subsidiary food crops. During the March harvest at Ba To (Quang Ngai) while these were devastated on thousands of hectares by toxic chemicals they grew more short-term and rotation rice. Here every three months they put by 1,200 *ang* — the equivalent of 6 tons — of paddy as seeds.

In Ba Ria province the peasants went to work with bomb-splinter-proof hats made of straw. Determined not to let a single plot of land lie fallow, they even grew crops in filled-up bomb-craters. On the other hand, they lined up across the road and barred the way to the raiders' convoys or staged marches to enemy garrisons and demonstrated against wanton shellings, and for reparation of damage done. At Long Binh (My Tho) they demanded that U.S. troops fill up their trenches and level their fortifications built on their ricefields. At Cu Chi (Gia Dinh), Trang Bang (Tay Ninh), Duc Hoa (Cho Lon) and other places, they took many actions to the same end. According to *Giai Phong Press Agency*, the cultivated area in 1967 substantially increased in comparison with the previous year. In the four provinces of Ca Mau, Can Tho, Vinh Long, Soc Trang and the district of Tra Cu (Tra Vinh), the area under the main rice crop increased 20,000 ha whereas that of the early rice crop doubled. Despite thirty bombings during the first six months, all the main crop lands in Hung Khanh Trung and Phu Son villages of Ben Tre province were cultivated, not mention that the tree growing area reached 1,430 ha, i.e. three times as large as in 1966.

The organization of long-duration or seasonal exchange-labour teams brought about substantial results in time of devastation by the enemy. It kept developing on an ever-larger scale, especially in Central Trung Bo. Here, *Giai Phong Press Agency* said, by May 1967 4,650 such teams in the plains and 4,800 in the mountain regions had been set up or consolidated. The figure was 2,000 for seven delta provinces of Nam Bo in the first nine months of the year.

In different places the peasants raised a mutual-aid fund to help one another in production or in case of natural calamities or damage caused by the enemy.

When the enemy broke in, the people took to arms and their lands became battlefields. When he withdrew they resumed production.

(Continued page 7)

Drying of paddy

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